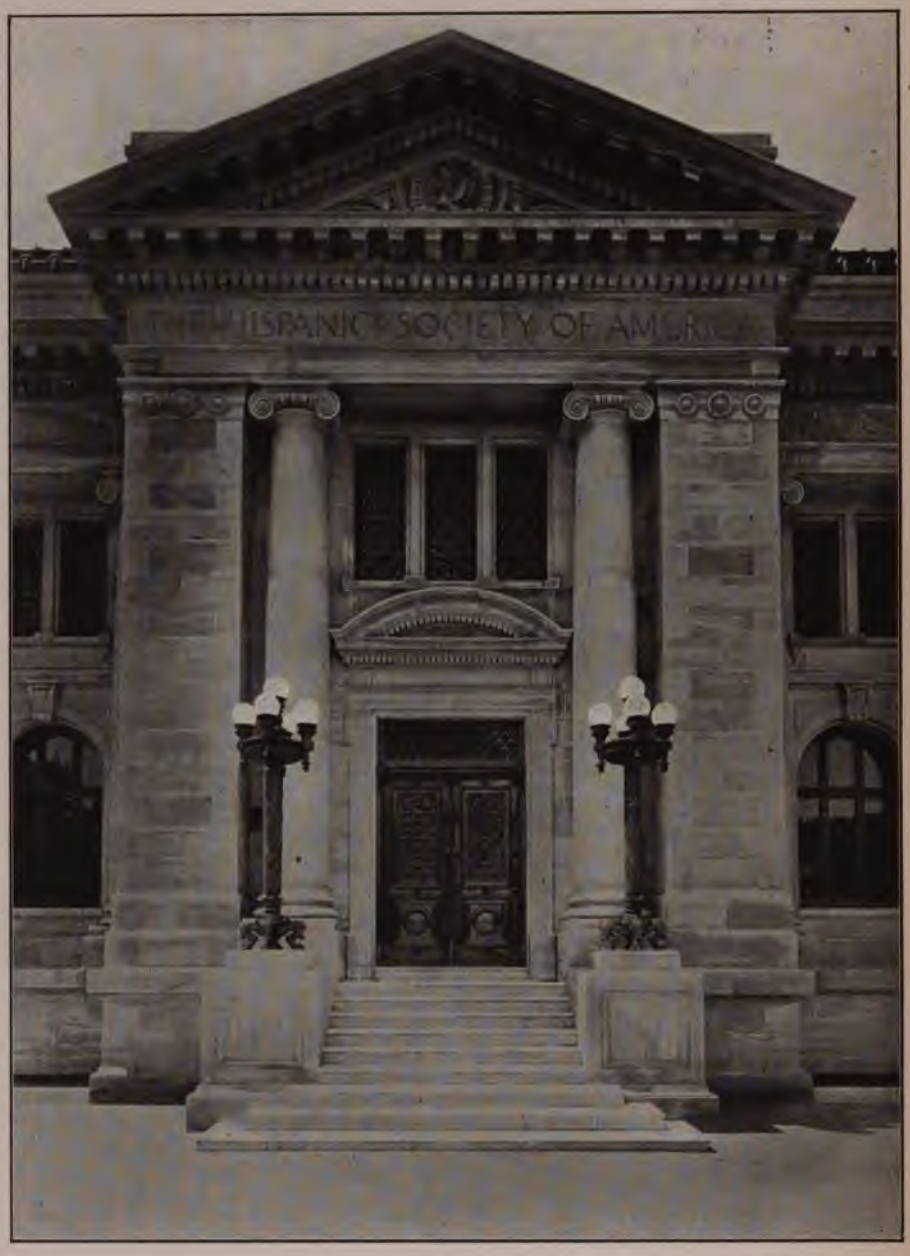
THE HISPANIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA

FOUNDED 1904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FOUNDED 1904

NEW YORK
1910

FOUNDATION

THE deed of foundation of THE HISPANIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA was executed on the eighteenth day of May, 1904. Eight lots of land, afterwards increased to twelve, in Audubon Park, Washington Heights, New York City, were conveyed,] with an endowment. As Trustees were : Charles Harrison Tweed, Isaac Edwin Gates, Lathrop, John Ten Broeck Hillhouse, and l Lovell Hillhouse.

'n the nineteenth of May, 1904, these gentlemen the Founder and proceeded to organize as a] d, formally receiving the grant and accepting for ıd their successors the trusts imposed. l of foundation was placed on record on the ı day of July, 1904.

OBJECTS

The Constitution adopted November 17, 1904, states the objects of the Society to be the establishment of "a free public library, museum, and educational institution," "advancement of the study of the Spanish and Portuguese languages, literature, and history, and

advancement of the study of the countries wherein Spanish and Portuguese are or have been spoken languages"; "to promote the public welfare by actively advancing learning, and providing means for encouraging and carrying on the before-mentioned work within the State of New York; also by issuing publications from time to time, and by otherwise doing such things as may be necessary fully to accomplish its work."

HISPANIA was the designation given by the Romans to the whole Iberian peninsula. The term Hispanic in the name of the Society indicates its range of interest as including everything Iberian, related thereto and derivative therefrom.

ORGANIZATION

The number of Trustees is five. The members constitute an international body limited in number to one hundred. The number of corresponding members is not limited. Honorary members, honorary associates, and honorary fellows may also be elected. From the hundred members an Advisory Board numbering ten persons is elected by the Board of Trustees.

BUILDING

The building of the Society is in 156th Street, West of Broadway, New York City. It is most con-

veniently reached from the 157th Street Station of the Broadway Subway.

The stone of the building is Indiana limestone. No wood has been used. Steel, brick, terra cotta, and bronze have been employed as subsidiary materials.

The main façade, one hundred feet long, consists of engaged Ionic columns, cornice, and parapet, with a projecting entrance portico surmounted by a pediment. The frieze of the main façade bears on the left of the portico, as one approaches, the names of Columbus, Cervantes, and Lope de Vega, and on the right those

C Loyola, and Velázquez.

T façade is a simple but monumental unbroken of nine bays with a high panel in each for The frieze here bears the names of Trajan, Averroes, Almanzor, The Cid, Charles V, Magellan, San Martín, and Calderón. The interior of the building, above the basement and subbasement, which contain the stack and storage rooms, vaults, photographic, librarians', and cataloguers' rooms, consists of a main reading and exhibition room in the architecture of the Spanish Renaissance and executed in terra cotta, ninety-eight feet in length by forty feet in width and thirty-five feet high, surrounded by balconies and lighted through its heavy ornamented ceiling by skylights.

The galleries surrounding the main reading-room afford space on the east side for sculpture, on the north and south for cases containing pictures, manuscripts,

maps, and other objects, and on the west for cases subserving the uses of the library, the large well containing the lift for larger books, and the desk for the page in attendance. The balconies above the galleries contain the paintings and other objects constituting the Museum proper.

THE MUSEUM

Except in the case of temporary closure for special purposes, this Museum in the balconies is opened to the public every day, Sundays included, from one until five P.M., except during the month of August and on Christmas and Thanksgiving. No photographs may be taken. Applications for the privilege of copying should be addressed to the Secretary. Photographs of paintings, sculptures, and other objects permanently on exhibition may be obtained on application at the Secretary's office for a sum intended to defray the cost of production.

While the building of the Hispanic Society actually includes, in a strict sense, a museum, this title as usually and broadly understood is in a measure pretentious. Nor was it the original intention that it should ever be strictly applied. The building is simply the home of the Society, and the small collection of objects of art was included solely for the convenience of the students and members. It was thought that more intelligent work could be accomplished were broader facilities offered in the form of

illustrative originals, and the result during the first year of the Society's existence in its new building has more than demonstrated the wisdom of this belief.

THE COLLECTIONS

The collections proper include a small number of paintings; wood-carving; silver-work; ironwork; ivory plaques and combs of Phenician origin; neolithic and Roman pottery; objects of domestic use the Roman Italica; ejecutorias, or patents of ity; a collection of Hispano-Moresque plaques; of Buen Retiro ware; azulejos, or glazed ; Roman mosaics; some one hundred and sixty ıish incunabula, beginning with a large collection the first printer in Spain, Lambert Palmart of ; a few incunabula of printers in Italy and Germany, of interest for comparison or on other ıds; autograph letters of Charles V and of the Wellington; a few Latin and Hebrew manuscripts; manuscripts of George Borrow and of Robert Southey; first editions of the important Spanish authors; a general Spanish numismatic collection; drawings by Vierge illustrative of Don Quijote; copies of Velázquez; ecclesiastical embroideries; ancient maps; portolans; prints and facsimiles.

In the gallery to the east of the reading-room are sculptured tombs illustrating the development of the

Gothic ecclesiastical sculpture and that of the Renaissance. In this gallery are also architectural fragments from the Roman Italica and two torsos from Italica that are regarded as being early copies of Greek originals.

This east gallery of the reading-room is shown to visitors on Sunday afternoon. The other objects in the galleries about the reading-room, in order to protect readers from interruption, are shown only by special authorization.

THE LIBRARY

The Library is one of reference exclusively. The by-laws forbid the removal even by the officers of any material. While all intelligent and appreciative readers duly admitted to the use of the Library are welcome and especially friends belonging by citizenship or descent to the Latin nationalities, the most cherished object is to encourage and promote original and new investigation of special subjects so recorded as to be itself literature. Such students may be assured of every aid under the circumstances possible.

On application to him personally or by letter, the Librarian will send to those desiring to use the Library a form of introduction, upon which the applicant is requested to write his or her name and address, and

which the applicant is asked to return to the Librarian signed by a responsible introducer. Cards are not issued in mere compliment.

The Library is open to the holders of readers' cards from ten A.M. to five P.M. every day except Sundays, New Year's day, Lincoln's birthday, Washington's birthday, Decoration day, Independence day, the month of August, Thanksgiving day, and Christmas.

THE BOOKS

Of the books in the Library, which number about fifty thousand, three fifths are the original nucleus and represent the literature and history of Spain. Portuguese, Catalan, and Basque are also represented. To works of distinctly Iberian relation have been added ıy relating to the countries of Latin America.

Readers have at their service the principal reviews magazines of Spain and some current periodicals f Latin America.

ORGAN

The Hispanic Society of America publishes the "Revue Hispanique," *Recueil consacré à l'étude des langues, des littératures et de l'histoire des pays castillans, catalans et portugais, Dirigé par R. Foulché-Delbosc, New York, Paris, Vols. i-xx (1894-1910).*

The "Revue Hispanique" is published every three months, forming each year two volumes of about 600 pages each. The price of subscription for the current year is 20 francs or 4 dollars for all countries within the Postal Union. Only the complete yearly issue is sold. A few of the previous issues remain.

The "Revue Hispanique" notices or reviews the books, pamphlets, or periodicals of which a copy is sent to M. R. Foulché-Delbosc, boulevard Malesherbes 156, Paris.

All communications regarding editing and exchange of the "Revue Hispanique" are to be addressed to M. R. Foulché-Delbosc, boulevard Malesherbes 156, Paris. Communications concerning subscriptions are to be addressed:

In America, to the Secretary of The Hispanic Society of America, Audubon Park, 156th Street, West of Broadway, New York City;

In Europe, to C. Klincksieck, 11, rue de Lille, Paris.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The Society has issued and issues aside from the "Revue Hispanique" more than seventy distinct publications; regarding these there has been issued a "Catalogue of Publications." It may be obtained by application to the Secretary of the Society.

COPYING, TRANSLATION, SPECIAL RESEARCH

Application for copying from books and manuscripts, for translation and for special research should be addressed to the Librarian. For these services a fee proportioned to the length and difficulty of the task will be charged.


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